

SUMMER 2006 • visitmt.com

These Boots Are Made For Walking

Dubbed the “Crown of The Continent,” Glacier National Park is one of the most breathtaking and memorable experiences in Montana.

For nearly 75 years, Park visitors have traveled by car across Logan Pass on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, searching for the perfect snapshot to capture the majestic peaks and valleys carved by ice-age glaciers centuries ago. Little do they know that they are missing an opportunity to travel winding trails leading to crystal mountain lakes, view countless species of wildlife, and reach out and touch a part of America that remains untamed. Glacier National Park is a hikers' paradise, containing 700 miles of maintained trails that lead deep into one of the largest intact ecosystems in the lower 48. The Park preserves over 1,000,000 acres of forests, alpine meadows and lakes. Its diverse habitats are home to more than 70 species of mammals



St. Mary Lake in Glacier National Park

and more than 260 species of birds.

Don a pair of hiking boots and you can make Glacier National Park your own personal wonderland. The west slope of the Park is blanketed with thick forests of pine and trails, some ancient, like Avalanche Creek, that lead through lush forest floor and snow-fed creeks. On the east side, more readily visible wildlife abound on the Rocky Mountain front and are viewable at popular sites like the Many Glacier Hotel and from the Swiftcurrent Motor Inn parking lot. From the Visitor's Center on top of Logan Pass, hikers can explore trails in all directions venturing to mountain lakes or remote lodges like the Granite Park Chalet. Backpacking is another very popular activity in the park and a great way to explore the unspoiled backcountry.

Visitors looking for a more leisurely trip through Glacier can take horseback riding trips, scenic boat rides and interpretive road tours from many of the well-known lodges throughout the park.

In 1932 Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park, in Canada, were designated Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the world's first International Peace Park of which there now are several dozen worldwide. This designation celebrates the longstanding peace and friendship between our two nations. Glacier and Waterton Lakes have both been designated as Biosphere Reserves and together were recognized in 1995 as a World Heritage Site.



Hiking in Two Medicine Area in Glacier Park

Glacier National Park is accessible via airline service through Glacier Park International Airport in Kalispell, MT, just 25 miles west of Park headquarters in West Glacier, MT. There are also airports in Great Falls, MT (200 miles east of West Glacier) and Missoula, MT (156 miles south of West Glacier). Amtrak offers another option for getting to the park, with regular services from Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Minneapolis and Chicago.

For more information about Glacier National Park, visit www.nps.gov/glac.

For other area information, go to www.glacier.visitmt.com.

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Dinosaurs Prepared to Call Rudyard Home

Dinosaurs continue to pay off for the Hi-Line town of Rudyard, which bills itself as “Rudyard, 596 nice people, one old sorehead!”

Located between Chester and Havre on U.S. Highway 2, Rudyard is preparing to open a new museum that will house, in the words of one source, “an absolutely fantastic dinosaur exhibit.”

Dinosaur fanatics will recall that two years ago researchers and diggers uncovered a complete articulated duckbill dinosaur on the farm of Lila and Dan Redding near the Canadian border north of Rudyard. Since they had no place for the find, Lila Redding took the lead. “When we found this, we talked about where to put it,” Redding said. “I approached the museum in town, and they were agreeable. I spearheaded fundraisers, and we built a (\$50,000) building over the course of almost two years.”

The Rudyard museum is affiliated with the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT and



Installing the Rudyard Museum dinosaur exhibit

Montana State University. Jack Horner, the dinosaur expert from the Museum of the Rockies, also has been a regular at the Redding farm for decades. “Jack Horner started at our farm 30 years ago while it still was a hobby,” Redding said.

The Museum of the Rockies plans to rotate dinosaur exhibits through the Rudyard museum with museum staff scheduled to begin setting up displays over the next few weeks. “I’m guessing they are going to set up 12 to 15 dinosaurs,” Redding said. “It is going to be quite a display when they get all said and done.”

Redding said the community is calling the type of dinosaur found in the Rudyard area a “gryposaurus” and in keeping with the idea that every dinosaur needs a name, the duckbill found on the Redding farm three years ago is “the oldest sorehead.”

Gayle Fisher, executive director of Russell Country Tourism, said Rudyard has been added to the Montana Dinosaur Trail.

“The dino exhibit will really set them apart though,” said Fisher. “One added perk this summer will be a satellite link between the Rudyard Museum, the Museum of the Rockies, the Smithsonian Institute and the Museum of Natural History (London). If by chance, you are in London, you could check out the monitor and see just what is happening north of Rudyard. Simply amazing.”

The link actually will be at the Redding farm and the dinosaur dig there. “People from the Smithsonian can watch them dig,” Redding said.

For information on the dinosaur trail, log onto www.mtdinotrail.org; for area information, go to www.russell.visitmt.com.

Whitewater Rafting: Yellowstone Hydro-Therapy

Adventure zealots flock to Montana for many reasons; however, in the summer months whitewater rafting is often at the top of visitors’ (and journalists’) “to do” lists. Some come for gentle, roller coaster floats that wind through sage-tinted valleys. Others come in search of Montana’s frothy, adrenaline-pumping rivers that inspire paddlers to dig their blades deep—pulling over cresting waves that break across the bow. Either way, Yellowstone Country offers a full assortment of whitewater therapy treatments.

Whether a seasoned, Class IV aficionado or a first time “lily-dipper”, three rivers take center stage in this neck of Montana: the Gallatin, Stillwater, and the region’s namesake, Yellowstone River. Each of these rivers offer both mellow, scenic floats as well as rip snorting stretches, so there’s something for everyone. Montana’s rivers generally experience their highest flows—and are hence most exciting—in June when runoff is at its peak. Those of the less-extreme persuasion will prefer the more relaxed, less white-knuckled pace of July and August floats.

Flowing out of the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park, the Gallatin picks up volume as it rushes past Big Sky and into a narrow, rocky canyon below. Rapids like Screaming Left, House Rock and the Mad Mile will surely imprint a fine, lasting memory. Over on the Stillwater, which cascades out of the breathtaking Beartooth Mountains, rafters will find a magical mix

of moderate rapids surrounded by blooming wildflowers, singing birds and rising trout.

And then there’s the Yellowstone, the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48. Float the town stretch just outside of Gardiner, at the gateway of Yellowstone Park’s Mammoth entrance. Or, pony up for a glassy wave-train ride through Yankee Jim Canyon which flows out into a valley whose name says it all: Paradise.

Come research a whitewater rafting story in Yellowstone Country, where our green, swirling rivers will help you (and your readers) reconnect with your inner flow.

For more information, visit: www.montanawhitewater.com, www.absarokariver.com or www.yellowstoneraft.com. For other area information, go to www.yellowstone.visitmt.com



Whitewater rafting on the Gallatin River

Montana Free For All

Surely you've heard the old adage... "Some of the best things in life are free."

Well that holds true in Montana where locals & visitors alike are treated—throughout the summer months—to a continuum of great outdoor events: street parties, live music, craft fairs, farmer's markets, and even theatrical performances can be found all over the state from June through September. So leave your wallet in your pocket and consider researching an article on one of these hallmark vestiges of Montana-style Americana.

Helena's Alive at 5 takes place on Wednesday evenings at locations all over the historic downtown district, while the city of Great Falls Alive at 5 takes place on Thursday evenings. Alive at 5 events are a mix of local bands and brews, along with food vendors. Out to Lunch takes place at high noon every Wednesday in Missoula at Caras Park, literally a stones' throw from the emerald Clark Fork River. These come-as-you-are, bring the kids, load-your-hot-dog-with-all-the-fixin's festivities speak to our iconic Montana way of life, where taking time to enjoy family and friends is still a top priority. Add to this a healthy dose of Farmer's Markets springing



Montana grub at its best!

Anyone care for a spot of free theater? Yes, when you add into the mix Montana's Shakespeare in the Parks live performances (www2.montana.edu/shakespeare/) your cultural cup surely runneth over. What began as a limited, 12-city tour of Shakespearean scenes—by a largely volunteer company of actors—has grown into a nationally recognized, professional company that presents a two-month, 67-performance tour in 51 communities. Last summer nearly 25,000 people enjoyed Shakespeare in the Parks performances and the majority of these performances took place in communities with populations of less than 7,000. Going into its 34th summer of performances, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *The*

Winter's Tale are the featured plays for 2006.

To access a complete list of gratis summer celebrations throughout Montana, log onto www.livelytimes.com or www.visitmt.com. Go to www2.montana.edu/shakespeare for more information about Montana Shakespeare in the Parks.



A Montana Shakespeare in the Parks performance

up across Montana during the heart of the growing & harvesting season. These are not only occasions to stock up on organic produce and Rocky Mountain floral bouquets, but also a grand opportunity to sample home-baked goodies and drink in our signature Big Sky vibe.

Traditions, Not Traffic

Montana is filled with authentic cultural experiences, and topping that list has to be the Native celebrations and powwows in the Missouri River Country region.

These aren't events that have fallen into the trap of celebrating tourists more than traditions; rather, they honor Montana's native cultures with rich, colorful pageantry. Best of all, these celebrations and powwows are coordinated to offer a driving and cultural tour in the same trip: visitors can join many powwow participants as they move from celebration to celebration throughout the whole region.

In Frazer, the Red Bottom Celebration (June 16-18) is an annual powwow featuring dancing, food and crafts.

The next week, June 23-25, 2006, the town of Brockton hosts its own powwow, the Badlands Celebration.

The Fort Kipp Celebration takes place just 10 miles from Brockton, beginning June 30 and running through July 2, 2006.

If this three-week tour isn't enough, visitors can return for the Wadopana Celebration in Wolf Point August 4-6, 2006. This is the oldest traditional powwow in Montana, featuring cash prizes for dancers, special ceremonies for naming individuals and honoring family members and a special day of activities just for young people.

September brings the Poplar Indian Days Celebration, occurring Labor Day Weekend from September 1-3, 2006. (Thursday, August 31, is Camp Day.)

All of these celebrations take place on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, home to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. And, even though these are traditional celebrations with ceremonies and other sacred activities, all



Red Bottom Celebration

of the celebrations are open to the public. The organizers welcome visitors at each event, and are happy to share their rich heritage with all.

For more information, log onto www.indiannations.visitmt.com or www.missouririver.visitmt.com.

Bighorn Canyon: a Dam Good Time

Designated a national recreation area in 1966, Bighorn Canyon is still an undiscovered treasure of outdoor possibilities.

Montana's two biggest units of the National Park Service—Glacier and Yellowstone—get plenty of attention. But that only adds to the charm of undiscovered gems such as Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, a 122,000-acre natural paradise straddling the Montana/Wyoming border.

The area was officially created by an act of Congress in 1966; but it was physically created earlier that year with the completion of Yellowtail Dam (named for Crow Tribal Chairman Robert Yellowtail). The dam created the centerpiece of the

recreation area: Bighorn Lake, a 71-mile body of water surrounded by steep canyon walls. The lake itself is ideal for boating (Ok-A-Beh Marina, which offers boat rentals, is near the Dam outside of Fort Smith); in fact, many of the recreation area's wondrous sites are accessible via boat only, including Black Canyon and Medicine Creek Campgrounds.

But Yellowtail Dam created much more than a canyon filled with water and stunning vistas. It transformed Bighorn River into what some have hailed as the greatest flyfishing river in North America.

Why? First, the natural surroundings provide an excellent food base for trout. At the same time, because the river's flow is regulated (normally more than 2,000 fps) and released from penstocks 150 feet below the dam's surface, the river is constantly



Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

filled with cold water ideal for trout. The result is more than 6,000 trout per mile, averaging 16-18 inches. No wonder anglers from around the world have the Bighorn at the top of their dream destinations.

Visit www.nps.gov/bica for more information about Bighorn Canyon.

For other area information, go to www.custer.visitmt.com.

Montana Adventures in Time!

Young people ages 11-15 are invited to experience history first hand in Alder Gulch at Hands-On History Camp 2006, where they will explore the skills, traditions, and events of the past.

History Camp is designed to allow the participants to learn by doing, and experience the 19th century first hand. The enthusiastic and friendly living history interpreters and staff create a hands-on, full-sensory experience with vintage tools and techniques. This year's planned activities include blacksmithing, placer mining with Diamond Back Dave and his trusty burro Dusty, archaeological digs, attending one room school with Miss McNamara, exploring the inner workings of history, music machines, historic transportation, frontier chores, and more.

For more information about Hands-On History Camp 2006, contact the Montana Heritage Commission's Hands-On History Camp Director, Dan Thyer, at dthyer@mt.gov, or call 406-843-5247. Additional information, registration form, and schedule are available on line at: <http://www.virginiacitymt.com/HistoryCamp.asp>. For area information, visit goldwest.visitmt.com.



A Hands-On History Camp participant

The Montana Heritage Commission's Hands on History Camp Staff is committed to creating fun and educational opportunities for our camp participants. Campers learn about history, architecture, the 19th century and nature, while working on a history project, and daily activities with our staff.

The Hands-On History Camp 2006 begins on July 31, and continues until noon on August 5 in the historic towns of Virginia

City and Nevada City. Parents are welcome to attend the graduation, and view the projects that the students worked on and completed during the camp.

FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, the following services are offered to editors, writers and producers:

Visual Materials

Color slides, digital images and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

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